1: Pelleschi, Juan. Los Indios Matacos y su Lengua [The Mataco Indians and Their Language]. Introduction by Samual A. Lafone Quevedo. Boletín del Instituto Geográfico Argentino, Vol. 17, pp. 559-622; Vol. 18, pp. 173-350. Buenos Aires: 1896.

[HRAF MS: pp. i-iii, 1-193]

University of Michigan: G 5 B9

[Translated from the Spanish for the Human Relations Area Files by Sidney Muirden.]

[This work was originally published in Italian and reorganized and expanded with the assistance and approval of the original author for its appearance in Spanish. The introduction presents commentary on and quotation from various early writers on the Mataco and near-by tribes; this part is largely historical in nature with brief notes and summary statements on the cultures encountered by the early missionaries in the area. The second section, by Pelleschi, is on the Mataco culture with occasional reference to other tribes or to the culture of the general area. The author includes chapters on geography, physical and ethnic characteristics, the appearance and activities of the women, marriage and birth customs, fermented beverages and the use

1: Pelleschi, Juan

of various plants, warfare, religion, funeral practices, native doctors, and "social matters" -- the latter consisting of brief notes on many aspects of the culture. The third section, or Part Two of the main text, consists of Pelleschi's analysis of his notes on the Mataco language. He includes observations on the grammar, phonology, vocabulary and semantics of the language, but his treatment is that of a careful and interested observer rather than one trained in linguistics. Although the author gives much valuable information, his presentation is hardly exhaustive according to modern standards. Pages 275-350 of the Spanish text consist of a Mataco vocabulary which has not been translated into English; these pages and the end maps will be found only in category 116 with the rest of the foreign text. --Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1875 Evaluation: Civil Engineer-5
Analyst: George R. Bedell Processed in 1959

2: Karsten, Rafael. Indian Tribes of the Argentine and Bolivian Chaco: Ethnological Studies. Societas Scientarum Fennica, Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum, Vol. 4, No. 1. Helsingfors: Akademische Buchhandlung, 1932.

Pp. x, 236; illustrations; 10 text figures end map.

Yale: F12 F49 4

Pp. 206-230 on the Toba were not processed for the SI7 Mataco file.

[This is a general source on the culture of the Mataco, Toba and Choroti Indians of the northern Gran Chaco by a professor of moral philosophy at the University of Helsingfors. The author had considerable previous field experience among South American Indian groups. Material is included on general cultural characteristics and material culture, social organization, life cycle, education, warfare, trade and visiting, and religion. The emphasis throughout is upon the religious side of the life of these groups with Karsten usually commenting on what he thinks various elements of custom mean to them. The distribution studies of Nordenskiöld are criticized. Since data on the three groups are inextricably

2: Karsten, Rafael.

mixed on most pages, these data have been marked only for the Mataco. Otherwise these data have been subheaded for Toba SI12 and Choroti SK6. -- Analyst]

Field date: 1911-1913
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1958

3: Métraux, Alfred. Myths and Tales of the Matako Indians (The Gran Chaco, Argentina). Ethnological Studies, Vol. 9, pp. 1-127. Gothenburg, Sweden: Walter Kaudern, 1939.

Yale: Nk10 Et42 v.6-10

[Métraux took down these tales and myths during an interval in his field trip to study the Toba and Pilaga. His interviews were short and casual, and mainly limited to two informants. He had frequent opportunities to ask questions about matters touched upon in the tales. The tales are divided into groups concerning; the universe, the destruction of the world, the trickster and his adventures, spirits, the origin of women, fire and mythical characters, animals, and tales of European origin, or with predominant European elements. There is a series of notes appended to the tales relating to various aspects of the ethnography of the Mataco as suggested by the tales. The table of contents will be found in category 116, pp. 123-127. Notes to the myths will be found in category 116, pp. 90-123. At the time of his field work Métraux was an ethnologist on the staff of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu. --Analyst]

Field date: 1933 Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary Processed in 1958

4: Metraux, Alfred. Nota Etnografia sobre los Indios Mataco del Gran Chaco Argentino [Report on the Ethnography of the Mataco Indians of the Argentine Gran Chaco]. Relaciones de la Sociedad Argentina de Antropologia, Vol. 4, pp. 7-18. Buenos Aires: 1944.

Yale: C52 586 3-4

HRAF manuscript: pp. i, 11.

[Translated from the Spanish for the Human Relations Area Files by Sydney Muirden.]

[Metraux visited the Mataco in 1939 with the intention of doing a full-scale study, but was prevented by sickness from doing so. This source is a publication of some of his field notes from this trip. Data are included on birth and infancy, abortion and infanticide, marriage, the functions of the chief, religious beliefs, the witch doctors, magic, and the belief on the reality of dreams. Metraux is a well-known French-Argentine ethnographer.--Analyst]

Field date: 1939 Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary Processed in 1959

5: Fock, Niels. Mataco Marriage. Folk, Dansk Etnografisk Tidsskrift, Vol. 5, pp. 91-101. København: Danish Ethnographical Association, 1963.

Personal copy of T. O'Leary.

[This source is a detailed, functional study of marriage procedure, married life, and the termination of marriage among the Mataco of Argentina. The author illustrates how the marriage system is directly related to the economic and occupational system of the Mataco. --Analyst]

Field date: 1962
Analyst: Millicent Kim

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1964

6: Métraux, Alfred. Suicide Among the Matako of the Argentine Gran Chaco. America Indigena, Vol. 3, pp. 199-209. Mexico, D. F.: Instituto Indigenista Americano, 1943.

Yale: C51. In8c. 3.

[This article deals with the high rate of suicide among the Matako Indians in the missions. After giving ten case histories the author discusses the motives involved, the relation of suicide attempts to personality traits and to the existing acculturation situation.

While in the field Métraux observed only one case and most of his information was obtained from the English missionaries in the area. -- Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Joan Steffens

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1963.

7: Dijour, Élisabeth. Les Cérémonies d'Expulsion des Maladies chez les Matako /Ceremonies for the Expulsion of Illnesses among the Mataco/. Journal de la Société des Américanistes, n.s., Vol. 25, pp. 211-218. Paris, 1933.

2 end plates (VIII-IX).

Yale: C51 +So13 II. 25-26. /HRAF MS. pp. 1-12 including plates./

Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by Priscilla Reynolds.

[During the years 1932-1933 when the author was in charge of a mission to the Argentinian Chaco, she was able to observe at first-hand several ceremonies for the expulsion of illness or evil spirits, both from the village itself (which she describes in the first part of this source), and for various individuals (the descriptions of the ceremonies of which occupy the remainder of the work). Additional explanatory notes are appended by the author at the end of each ceremony described above./

Field date: 1932-1933
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1966

8: Moore, Frank W. Mataco Cultural Summary. Unpublished manuscript. New Haven: Human Relations Area Files, 1965.

Pp. 10; 1 map (typescript)

HRAF copy

/This source is a summary of the contents of the Mataco file as of late 1964. Dr. Moore is a professional anthropologist and executive director of HRAF. ---Analyst/

Field date: no date
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 4
Processed in 1965